

## June 2000 Meeting

The next meeting of the Willow Meadows Civic Club is Tuesday, **June 13**, 7:30 at the Willow Meadows Baptist Church. Please come and take part in what is going on in your neighborhood.

# Willow Meadows News

[WWW.WillowMeadows.Org](http://WWW.WillowMeadows.Org)

**June 2000**

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## From The President

Can you believe it? Summer is now upon us. It seems as if we just celebrated the millennium. I have to say though, I don't think our neighborhood has ever looked better. The number of homes that are undergoing remodeling or new landscaping has to be at an all time high. In addition, the home values in Willow Meadows are skyrocketing. According to those "in the know" within the real estate community, ours is one of the hottest neighborhoods in Houston. Demand exceeds supply!

I may be biased, but I think that it is partly a result of the work of the Civic Club as well as each resident that works to maintain their yards and homes. Ok, you ask, exactly what does the Civic Club do that is so valuable? I'll list them briefly because you probably have heard it all before: (1) enforce violations of deed restrictions and ensure conformance with architectural standards, (2) arrange for and direct security patrol, mosquito spraying, and esplanade maintenance, (3) represent our neighborhood before city council and other local governments on important issues such as flood control, traffic planning and control, subsidized housing, etc., and (4) take on new projects that will have direct benefits to the neighborhood such as our Willow Park 2000 campaign. The list goes on...all resulting in a better, safer neighborhood.

I am sure by now that you have probably seen the signs in Willowbend regarding the vote on deed restrictions. I'll admit that I do not know all the details, but I really find it hard to understand why someone would be against deed restrictions and a homeowner's association. It is non-sensible to me. In order to enforce the deed restrictions, an entity must be legally vested with the power to take action and taking action costs money. Otherwise, the enforcement of a violation would have to be done by an individual residing near the offending home. For me personally, I would rather have the homeowner's association do it. Who knows how that neighbor might react to me. Also, the fear of the "power hungry, railroading your rights" association is unfounded. If you don't like who is running the association, vote them out of office. Get 15 to 20 of your neighbors and you'll probably have a majority vote. It is as simple as that. Willowbend, take heed, it has been working in Willow Meadows for several years now and our neighborhood continues to improve.

On a separate note, I sadly report that Chris Brouwer is leaving the neighborhood. No, he is not moving to another neighborhood in Houston (as if there are any better). He is moving to North Carolina. Chris, the Editor of this newsletter, has contributed to the neighborhood in so many ways over the past several years. Please take time to call and thank him for all his contributions. Chris, good luck and don't forget to check us out at [www.willowmeadows.org](http://www.willowmeadows.org).

Wishing you a safe and peaceful summer,

Andrew Strong, WMCC President

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

by Paul Pennington

Below is the current accounting for the WMCC. It includes a list of the actual expenses to April 30, 2000, and the projected expenses to that date based on the budget approved in early January, 2000. Of note in the figures below is that the current cost of legal services is quickly reaching our full year budget. Much of this is due to bills for 1999 activities, where we actually came in approximately \$6,000 under budget. Nevertheless, our legal services may cost approximately \$4,500 more on an annualized basis than anticipated for the year 2000. Secondly, both the beautification and the special project budget have not been utilized yet, and are waiting for project proposal and approval. The mailing fees for the year 2000 on an annual basis are expected to be at the budgetary level, and a substantial overage to the budget is not anticipated. Finally, we have currently collected 94% of all 1999 dues and 79% of all Year 2000 dues in their entirety. To ensure collection, liens on properties have been placed on all properties that owe 1999 dues. Once again, I welcome any suggestions you may have on the use of your funds, please e-mail me at treasurer@willowmeadows.org. I thank all of those who have helped to give me direction and guidance over the past four months, a number of you will see or have seen your requests take place, and I hope to help many more ideas along in the future.

	Pro Rata Budget	Actual	Surplus or (Deficit)
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
<b>Bank Charges</b>	\$ 33	\$ 187	\$ (154)
<b>Deed Restriction Enforcement</b>			
Enforcement/Support Services	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,812	\$ 188
Legal Services	\$ 2,500	\$ 4,056	\$ (1,556)
<b>Beautification</b>			
Maintenance/Special Park Projects/Esplanade	\$ 2,000	\$ -	\$ 2,000
Mowing	\$ 1,467	\$ 1,100	\$ 367
<b>Mosquito Spraying</b>	\$ 1,333	\$ 625	\$ 708
<b>Security</b>	\$ 23,036	\$ 23,093	\$ (57)
<b>Postage &amp; Mailing</b>			
Annual Bulk Mail Fee	\$ 33	\$ -	\$ 33
First Class Mail (3 * 821 * \$0.5)	\$ 411	\$ 952	\$ (542)
P.O. Box Rental	\$ 25	\$ -	\$ 25
<b>Printing</b>			
General Printing	\$ 333	\$ 403	\$ (69)
Security Stickers (annualized)	\$ 500	\$ 594	\$ (94)
WMCC Annual Directory	\$ 800	\$ -	\$ 800
<b>Charitable Donations</b>			
Red Elementary	\$ 83	\$ -	\$ 83
United Orthodox Synagogue	\$ 42	\$ -	\$ 42
Willow Meadows Baptist	\$ 58	\$ -	\$ 58
<b>Miscellaneous Expenses</b>			
Corporate/Legal Filing Fees	\$ 167	\$ 84	\$ 83
Insurance for Board	\$ 333	\$ -	\$ 333
Office Supplies	\$ 100	\$ 87	\$ 13
Neighborhood Night/weekend out (Three)	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 500
Welcome Packages (50 * \$30)	\$ 500	\$ 595	\$ (95)
Other	\$ 167	\$ 57	\$ 110
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>\$ 36,088</b>	<b>\$ 33,645</b>	<b>\$ 2,443</b>
<b>INCOME</b>			
Annual Assessment (Full Year)	\$ 110,835	\$101,383	\$ (9,452)
Transfer Fees (Pro Rata)	\$ 833	\$ 909	\$ 76
Wells Fargo/ C. Schwab Investment Dividends	\$ 1,667	\$ 1,920	\$ 253
Advertising Income	\$ 167	\$ 100	\$ (67)
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>\$ 113,502</b>	<b>\$104,312</b>	<b>\$ (9,190)</b>

Treasurer's Report (cont.)

**C. Schwab balance as of 4/30/00, including 6 month C.D.           \$ 171,920**

**Percentage of dues fully paid for Year 1999 94%**

**Percentage of dues fully paid for Year 2000 79%**

### **Income Tax**

The WMCC income tax reporting has been completed for the calendar year 1999. We are still awaiting a ruling on the late filing of the 1998 taxes, and from all indications by the I.R.S, we have had our case re-assigned to a new agent, as the previous agent assigned to our case has left the service. We will keep the association updated to this matter as soon as more information becomes available.

### **Banking arrangements changed**

As I mentioned in the March general meeting, we have moved all of the WMCC funds to Charles Schwab. Reasons for this move include better service, improved money market rates, and more convenience for both check writing and money market investments. We expect this move to net the WMCC more than \$1,400 every year due to the improved money market rates and the no fee accounts. As a financial move, the WMCC purchased a 6 month Certificate of deposit as noted above that will also garner approximately \$600 more this year in interest, and will become due in October. At that point, we will research our alternatives as to other conservative and efficient money placements. We welcome your comments and suggestions.

### **NEWS AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD**

As indicated in a previous newsletter, the shopping center at Stella Link and Holcombe is being transformed. Look for a new Whole Foods store later this summer. Buffet Express got forced out, but that was our gain, as they moved into the old Walgreens location next to Sellers Brothers on Stella Link at South Braeswood.

Our neighbors to the south of us in Willow Bend are in the process of modernizing their deed restrictions. You may have noticed lots of signs both in favor and against their revisions, and unfortunately the neighborhood is somewhat split due to an overlap of the Precinct 287 group and the original platted Willow Bend subdivision. We understand that Willow Brook and Post Oak Manor subdivisions are also working on revised deed restrictions.

The Brays Bayou hike/bike trail got some new asphalt last month, but we sure would like to know what happened to the big renovations they promised us 4 years ago. No one at City Hall has been able to answer that.

## **Ray Allison, Realtors**

Announces the grand opening of their newest office. We are now representing homeowners in one of Houston's finest neighborhoods – yours!

Contact our **Willow Meadows** specialist:

**Greg Philpott 713 256-3000**  
**Gregphilpott@compuserve.com**

Please check our full page Sunday Chronicle ad

## Architectural Control Committee

by Robbie Chase

I received a few calls since the last newsletter regarding favorable reports on contractors and sub contractors. I placed a request for our residents to notify me of any contractors they had used and had an excellent experience with. My feeling is that any contractor should be able to give you a good outcome for a reasonable price. The people I am looking for to post in the newsletter are the contractor or repairman that have gone above and beyond the call of duty. Either their price was very good or the response or service given was better than anticipated.



The list below will be the first posting of this list. I will try to keep it categorized and updated. I will also ask our Web Master to post this list on our Web site.

In the event that any of you have a bad experience with any of these individuals or companies let me know and I will drop them from the list. Understand that neither the Civic Club, nor the person making these recommendations, will be held liable for making these recommendations. This listing is presented as a service to the neighborhood. In the event you want to speak to the individual making the recommendation I am keeping a master list with the name and phone number of the individual making the referral. At this point in time I do not plan to publish their names or phone numbers.

	<b>Contractor</b>	<b>Phone #</b>	<b>Contact</b>
<b>Appliance Repairs</b>	Walker Appliance	713-774-2688	Mr. Walker
	Bauman's	281-346-0641	
Carpentry	Sergio Escobar	713-434-2281	
<b>Concrete</b>	Concrete Works	713-688-4333	Daniel Reyna
Doors	Jett Doors	281-469-9644	
<b>Fences</b>	Griffin Fence	713-937-6611	
<b>Gas Stoves</b>	Macy's Texas Stove	713-521-0934	
<b>General Renovation</b>	Joe Koch	713-994-8144	Joe Koch
	Buffalo Glass	713-774-7495	
<b>Glass</b>	Swor's Glass	713-738-2464	
	Sammon's	713-984-0555	
<b>Heating A/C</b>	Edward Perez	713-434-2281	
<b>Painting</b>	S&S Plumbing	281-575-5786	Danny Smolensky
	Layne Plumbing	281-499-3122	
	Sword Plumbing	713-526-9588	
<b>Plumbing Supply</b>	Universal Plumbing	713-225-2800	Melvin Cweren
	Richards Spas and Pools	713-772-8646	
<b>Pools</b>	Fresh Start Landscapes	281-469-9614	
<b>Sprinklers</b>	Tran Van	281-289-9466	
<b>Tile</b>			

If any of you would like to make any future referrals I urge you to e-mail them to me via our website at [architecture@willowmeadows.org](mailto:architecture@willowmeadows.org). Please include your name and phone number when leaving information about any company. I hope this will be the start of a useful tool for all of us to refer to.

Also, remember that if any of you are planning any renovations that alter the exterior appearance of your house you are required to submit the architectural review form that is found on our website and two sets of plans for neighborhood approval.

## SECURITY REPORT

by Bill Warden

I would like to provide the residents of Willow Meadows a few helpful tips that may prove handy at some point. **Willow Meadows**, Westwood, Willow Bend, Linkwood, Post Oak Manor and Meyer Park, comprise a specific "Geographic Cell", within the City of Houston's Southwest Police Patrol Division Operations. This cell has been assigned a specific "**Police Beat**" number, being **15E30**. The area boundaries are; **North**: Beechnut/ Bellaire, **East**: South Main, **South**: South Main, **West**: South Post Oak, and is served primarily by the HPD Beechnut Substation.

Willow Meadows maintains a peaceful neighborhood with few apparent problems. The security report provided in "The Willow Meadows News" is based on the reports provided to the security chair by the Constable Patrol. The reports of activity in the neighborhood are usually small disturbances, misdemeanor theft, criminal mischief complaints, and a few traffic citations issued within the neighborhood.

The Houston Police Department's Uniform Crime Report for Police Beat **15E30**, which includes all these surrounding neighborhoods, shows the following crimes committed during January, February and March of this year:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Offense</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>Beat</u>
2000	Forcible Rape	(01)	(00)	(00)	15E30
2000	Robbery	(11)	(02)	(06)	15E30
2000	Aggravated Assault	(10)	(02)	(02)	15E30
2000	Burglary	(09)	(24)	(23)	15E30
2000	Burglary/ Vehicle	(06)	(16)	(13)	15E30
2000	Auto Theft	(13)	(10)	(16)	15E30
2000	Narcotic Crimes	(10)	(05)	(08)	15E30
2000	Murder/Manslaughter	(00)	(01)	(00)	15E30
2000	Driving w/ Intoxicated	(00)	(04)	(00)	15E30

For the Willow Meadows area, the Constable reported during the same period, the following:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Offense</u>	<u>Block</u>
01/01/2000	Criminal Mischief	4300 Lemac
01/01/2000	Criminal Mischief	4300 Sarong
01/17/2000	Burglary	4400 Waynesboro
01/18/2000	Burglary/Motor Vehicle	4300 W. Bellfort
01/21/2000	Burglary	9700 Greenwillow
01/25/2000	Burglary/ Motor Vehicle	4400 Osby
02/01/2000	Runaway/ Juvenile	9700 Cliffwood
02/07/2000	Adult/ Mental Health Issue	10100 Cliffwood
02/08/2000	Possible Shots Fired	4400 Lymbar
02/18/2000	Theft	4000 Sarong
02/25/2000	Attempted Burglary	4300 W. Bellfort
02/28/2000	Criminal Mischief	9900 Cliffwood
03/14/2000	Family Disturbance	4300 Sarong
03/19/2000	Disturbance	4400 Silverwood

## Security Report (cont. from page 5)

The security of our neighborhood is a high priority for most of us. The civic association spends approximately \$70,000 annually, to provide patrol services as an adjunct to the Houston Police Department. The Houston Police Department is our primary law enforcement agency and they should always be called in the event of an emergency or a serious crime that has been committed or is in progress.

Burglaries appear to be on the increase and the following suggestions are offered by local law enforcement: Survey your home. Look at your home through a burglar's eyes. Does it look like an easy target? Are there obvious security weaknesses?

***\* Shrubbery should not obscure doors and windows. Trim the growth so that a burglar cannot work undetected.***

***\* At night leave a few lights burning outside your home. Lights over doorways and garages, and strategically placed floodlights will make your home less inviting to a burglar.***

***\* Windows and doors should be securely locked. Inadequate locks should be replaced or supplemented with dead bolt locks.***

***\* Attempt to make your home look occupied at all times.***

To supplement your survey, you may contact the Houston Police Department's Community Services Division at 713-308-3200 for a **free home security survey**. Upon your request an HPD Crime Prevention Officer will survey your home and provide security recommendations.

I wish you a wonderful and safe summer, should you go on vacation, be sure to notify a neighbor and/or request a "Vacation Watch" from the Constable patrol service.

## **PARKING TICKETS?**

We have heard from a few neighbors that they have received parking tickets on Greenwillow near the synagogue. We are not sure the source of this and are still investigating, but believe it may be due to the parking congestion around the synagogue on high holy days. The tickets may be for obstructing traffic when cars are parked on both sides of the street. Please be forewarned not to block traffic on Greenwillow or Cliffwood near the synagogue.

## **2000 CIVIC CLUB MEETINGS**

JUNE 13  
SEPTEMBER 5  
DECEMBER 5

## **NEWSLETTER INPUT**

As always, we welcome your comments and any input to this newsletter. After all, it is by and for the Willow Meadows neighborhood. Whatever the news, if you want to share it with us, please don't hesitate to send an Email to the editor at [editor@willowmeadows.org](mailto:editor@willowmeadows.org).



## MAINTENANCE UPDATE

by Robert Doffing

### Compost, Natures Dirt

Compost is a great way to recycle and add nutrients to the garden. If you want to go organic and alleviate fertilizers then composting is the way to go. I have been making and using compost for years with great results. I grow cilantro, tomatoes, and hot peppers in it. The results have been fantastic.



You can build your own compost pile using landscape timbers, bricks, cinderblocks, or chicken wire. It's simple, enclose a three by three foot square area or larger using your material of choice and start filling it up with grass clippings and "stuff". You can use any or the following; coffee grounds, tea grounds, fruit trimmings, potato peels, leaves, grass clippings, brush trimmings, old plant material / flowers etc., corncobs and stalks, cow manure, straw, pine needles, or sawdust (from non-treated wood). Brush or wood chips can be used as a bulking agent and are recommended.

It should be noted that while most all organic materials will compost, not all of them should be added to the compost pile. Ex: weeds, fatty foods and cooked bones (Uncooked bones with out meat on them are o.k.), cat or dog fecal materials, or excessive amounts of ash (from the pit or fireplace).

You won't have to worry about smell, cats, dogs or raccoons if you bury those items you add from the kitchen. Ever so often (30 days or so) turn the compost. This will add the needed air and will help with the decomposing process. If it has been dry out then you will need to water the pile. Deeper piles help to caused higher and better temperature distribution. This is good and speeds decomposition. Anything that kills or inhibits the growth of the microorganisms involved in the

decomposition process should not be used, such as pesticides or weed killers.

How long before you have good ready to use compost? The answer depends on many factors such as techniques used, seasonal temperatures (both inside and outside of the pile), the balance of materials used, size of the material, and moisture levels. The more time the compost material has to "age," the better. The process generally takes no less than 120 days and can take as long as a year. When you see, and taste, the results of organically grown vegetables you will be convinced. Good compost can't be beat!

Please send questions or suggestions to [beautification@willowmeadows.org](mailto:beautification@willowmeadows.org).

## Yard of the Month In Willow Meadows



March-  
April-  
May-

10118 Willowgrove  
9214 Greenwillow  
4411 Wigton

A few neighbors remarked how we had some repeat homes in the past few months. Please note that we are striving to avoid repeats and recognize new winners who have worked hard on their yards. One of those "repeat" winners was actually a new homeowner who did additional landscaping in an already beautiful yard.

Please feel free to email or call our Beautification chairman if you have a neighbor you want to recognize for their efforts.

# DEED RESTRICTION UPDATES

by Lillian J. Warden

The Willow Meadows Deed Restriction Enforcement Committee met on April 12, 2000. The Committee Chair, Doug Koy, reported that there continues to be **excellent** response from the residents to our violation notification letters. Because of this, the Committee has agreed to meet every other month, instead of monthly.

The committee has agreed on a new procedure policy when notifying residents about deed restriction violations. A “personal touch” will be added to the procedure. Once a violation complaint has been received by the committee, Peggy Stamy, our volunteer coordinator, will personally attempt to establish contact with the resident prior to

sending out the first violation letter. This could be by way of a telephone call or a visit to the residence. The Committee members

strongly agree that much more could be accomplished with one-to-one communication. The committee has agreed to provide Peggy with an “official” identification badge provided by WMCC, to readily identify herself to residents. If you need to report a deed restriction violation, contact either Doug Koy at (713) 723-0067, or Peggy Stamy at (713) 723-0350.

### Legal News:

WMCC is pleased to report that the first lawsuit filed against a resident because of numerous deed restriction violations has been settled “out of court.” The residents have agreed to correct the violations by June, 2000, and have agreed to pay one-half of the attorney fees associated with the case.

The Deed Restriction Committee is in the process of filing liens against the property of those residents who have either not paid their 1999 dues,

nor have filed a hardship.

### General Reminders:

If you are planning any remodeling projects, check with our Architectural Committee chair, Robbie Chase (713)723-4878, for approval of your project or if you have any questions. If your remodeling/construction project is time sensitive, you may want to hand deliver your request to Robbie at his home, 10002 Willowgrove.

Residents whose fence backs up to West Bellfort, and are planning to replace their existing fence, must now erect an 8 foot fence, and constructed of an approved material (solid wood), according to our Deed Restrictions (see Article III, i). The new 8 foot fence’s “good side” will need to face West Bellfort.

Trash Alert! Do not put out your heavy trash prior to the scheduled pick-up date! I have noticed too many piles of “stuff” in front yards laying out for too many days. This is definitely not an attractive sight to other residents and to our visitors! Our heavy trash pick-up day is the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month.



## Advertising

We would like to remind you that the Willow Meadows newsletter will accept advertising to help defray the costs of printing and other civic club expenses. If you have a local business or provide a service useful to our neighbors, you may want to let us know about it. To encourage participation, we have kept our prices low, as indicated below.

- Full page: \$100 each edition
- Half page: \$50 each edition
- Quarter page: \$25 each edition
- Eighth page: \$15 each edition

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

Here are some excerpts from the March 25, 1968 minutes of the general meeting:

“Approximately 45 people attended. Since the hazards and accidents are increasing at the new bridge area at S. Braeswood and Greenwillow, letters have to be sent by the Synagogue and the Baptist church requesting that action be taken concerning the safety in that area.

Mr. Corley read a letter from Rev. Sherman about a course to be given in the form of 5 meetings concerning ways to stop smoking.

Mr. Hamburger was unable to attend, but Mr. Green kindly came and presented an interesting and informative lecture on the Apollo Man to Moon mission. He showed a film, after which he answered questions pertaining to the Space Program.

Thanks were expressed to Mr. Loew for the newsletter. Mr. Loew asked for all news possible to be given to him so he can continue to make the letter as interesting as possible (editors note: sounds familiar!). He expressed a need for someone to help with the writing.

A complaint was made about the junky car that sits at the corner of Willowilde and O’Meara – somone was to call the police. Door prizes were given to: Jack Burr, Lera McClain and J. C. McDuffie. These consisted of bonus books for the Hemisfair.”

## DOGS ON THE LOOSE!

Some neighbors have advised us that many neighbors leave their dogs unleashed in their yards, and the dogs come charging at walkers, joggers and other dogs out for a walk with their owners. Loose dogs are against the law. Please keep yours properly contained.

## NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

First, please pay attention that the civic club meeting is on the **SECOND** Tuesday in June, not the traditional first Tuesday, due to a conflict of schedules at the church.

Well, my tenure as temporary editor has quickly come to an end. After eight years serving a variety of positions with the Civic Club Board, I must resign my position as I move on to North Carolina. It will be quite the change for me moving to a very rural area compared to the closeness of community I have enjoyed here in Willow Meadows. Please keep up the good work and I look forward to coming back to visit you from time to time.

**ATTENTION!** As we went to press, we did not have a new editor confirmed. If you have any interest, please call Andrew Strong at 713-723-6923. The newsletter is written quarterly, and experience with Microsoft Word or Microsoft Publisher would be of help.

<p><b>Willow Meadows Civic Club, Inc.</b>  <b>P. O. Box 35551</b>  <b>Houston, Texas 77235</b></p>					
<p><b>2000 Willow Meadows Civic Club Officers and Executive Board</b></p>					
<b>President</b>	Andrew Strong	(713) 723-6923	<b>Beautification</b>	Robert Doffing	(713) 729-7464
<b>Vice President</b>	Lily Warden	(713) 728-1161	<b>Deed Restrictions</b>	Doug Koy	(713) 723-0067
<b>Treasurer</b>	Paul Pennington	(713) 723-6282	<b>Architecture</b>	Robbie Chase	(713) 723-6468
<b>Secretary</b>	Sondra Ludwick	(713) 723-1595	<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Chris Brouwer	(713) 723-9235
<b>Security</b>	Bill Warden	(713) 728-1161	<b>Webmaster</b>	Juan Moreno	(713) 721-8441

**Who Can I Call?**

<b>Precinct 7 Constables</b>	<b>(713) 643-6602</b>
<b>Emergency</b>	<b>911</b>
<b>Poison Control</b>	<b>(800) 764-7661</b>
<b>Mayor’s Office</b>	<b>(713) 247-1888</b>
<b>Mark Goldberg, Dist. C</b>	<b>(713) 247-2004</b>
<b>Odor Hotline</b>	<b>(713) 837-0600</b>
<b>Water/Sewer Repairs</b>	<b>(713) 837-0600</b>
<b>Neighborhood Protection</b>	<b>(713) 525-2525</b>
<b>Harris County Flood Control</b>	<b>(713) 684-4197</b>

As a courtesy to our residents, we are providing you the most common "gripe" numbers so that you can make your voice heard on the issues of concern to you.



<b>County Commissioner</b>	
Precinct 1, Outside the Loop	
(El Franco Lee)	<b>(713) 755-7715</b>
Precinct 3, Inside the Loop	
(Steve Radack)	<b>(713) 755-6305</b>
City Secretary	<b>(713) 247-1840</b>
Houston Solid Waste Mgmt	<b>(713) 837-9100</b>
dead animals	<b>(713) 669-7900</b>
heavy trash	<b>(713) 551-7300</b>
Texas State Representative	<b>(512) 463-0492</b>
(Scott Hochberg, Dist. 132)	<b>(713) 660-7783</b>
Texas State Senator	<b>(512) 463-0113</b>
(Rodney Ellis, Dist. 13)	<b>(713) 236-0306</b>

**Willow Meadows Monument Project**

**by Sondra Ludwick**

Willow Meadows Civic Club continues to improve the overall appearance of the neighborhood with an improvement project involving the monument signs in our esplanades. Our goal is to complete the following projects by year-end:

1. Remove the leaning brick walls with metal signs at the south entrance of our neighborhood on Greenwillow at McDermed. These signs have been around as long as our neighborhood and have seen better days. The Civic Club Board feels that it is not necessary to spend money in re-building these signs since this entrance is not a major access point for visitors.
2. Remove the wood sign at S. Braeswood and Greenwillow and replace it with a beautiful brick monument bearing our neighborhood name. This monument will be similar to the monuments located on W. Bellfort. The Civic Club Board felt that this is a major entrance into our neighborhood and should display a quality monument.
3. Landscape the 2 monuments on W. Bellfort and the new monument on S. Braeswood. Adding landscaping to these signs will improve their appearance tremendously and dramatically enhance the appearance of the major entrances to our neighborhood.

As with any project, I am beginning to get request for quotations (RFQs) for the above mentioned projects. If any of our residents own or work for a company that can provide the services we need at a reduced rate, please contact me at (713) 723-1595.

**Heavy Trash Pick-Up Dates**

May 24

June 28

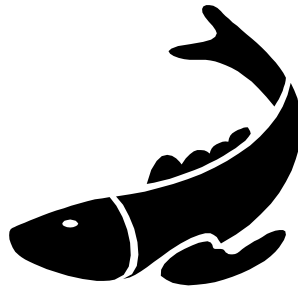
July 26

August 23

## LOCAL GARDEN TOURS

Submitted by Chris Brouwer

Houston has many home and garden tours, including the famous River Oaks Azalea Trail, the Bellaire Home Tour, etc., but one of the most interesting I ever attended is sponsored by the Lone Star Koi Club. Last year's tour included approximately 10 homes scattered from downtown to Katy, and it was an opportunity to view some beautiful gardens as well as appreciate this interesting hobby. One beautiful Memorial area home actually bought the adjacent lot in order to add a flowing stream, waterfall, additional koi ponds. Their landscaping but many botanical gardens to shame. Not to mention one of the ponds was an enclosed pool, with champion specimens of koi.



This year, the tour has expanded to twenty-two homes, stretching from northwest Houston down to Pasadena and Pearland. We were excited to learn that two Willow Meadows homes will be on the tour. Owners at 4818 McDermid and 4422 Cheena will be sharing this fascinating hobby with the public. The tour is on Saturday and Sunday, June 3 & 4, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.. We understand tickets for the tour cost \$7 and can be purchased at any of the homes on the days of the tour.

The Club offers a few guidelines: please remember the koi ponds are in private gardens, so please treat the homes and the hosts with respect. If you are visiting with children, please keep them under control, and please leave your pets at home. We hope this newsletter reaches some of you in time to enjoy this fascinating hobby and enjoy some beautifully landscaped yards at the same time.

## WILLOW PARK PROJECT

By Robert Doffing

At the last WMCC general meeting, the membership voted to create an *ad-hoc* committee to look into possible improvements of Willow Park. As you may know, Willow Park, located next to Red Elementary

on Cliffwood, is the only park in our neighborhood. Over the past several years, the condition of the park has deteriorated and safety issues have been raised. The Committee is co-chaired by Robert Doffing and Kathy Schulz and committee members include Cynthia Adamson, Lynn Pennington, Robbie Chase, Lynn Morris and Nicole Elder. The primary issues to be address by the Committee include safety and capital improvements.

The Committee recently met with City Council Member Mark Goldberg and Beto Bautista, Deputy Director of the Parks Department to discuss specific safety concerns and capital improvements to the park. Since that meeting, the City has addressed many of the safety concerns. The Committee has also met to discuss the development of conceptual plans for the park and fund-raising needs for the capital improvements. Several of the committee members have or will be meeting with other neighborhood groups that have already improved their parks. Their experience and advice will be a big help to us.

Presently, there are seven committee members but we would like to have more. We need help to develop the conceptual drawings and in fund-raising, though anyone interested in helping out would be welcome. If you cannot volunteer, but have some good ideas, please feel free to share them with us. If you are interested, please contact Robert Doffing at (713) 729-7464.

Many of the safety issues identified by the Willow Park committee have been addressed and the park is looking better all the time. So get out, enjoy the park, and volunteer if you can.

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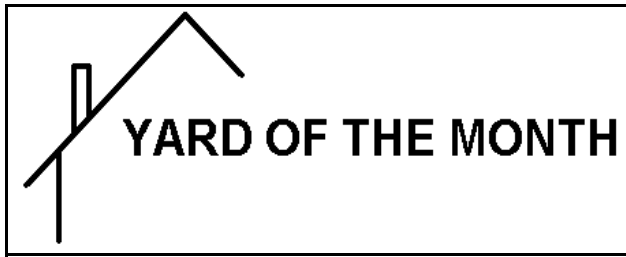
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**From the Webmaster**  
by Juan Moreno



